

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

INCORPORATED

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Membership Secretary

479 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

December 11, 1953.

Newsletter Number Ten

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

held on November 24, 1953, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 P.M. by the President, Mr. Edward W. Forbes. One hundred and thirty-four members were represented at the meeting by proxy or in person.

It was VOTED to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting and to accept them as printed.

At the invitation of the President, the Treasurer, Mr. Keller, read his Report which was accepted by VOTE. It was placed on file; here follows a summary of the Boston account (the report on the Cairo account having been delayed in the mail):

Summary of Cash Receipt and Disbursements

October 1, 1952 through September 30, 1953

Balance in Bank, Sept. 30, 1952	\$3,006.39	
Received as dues and donations	<u>2,050.00</u>	\$5,056.39

Expenditures:

Newsletters	165.97
Advanced to the Director for administrative expenses (to be accounted for in accordance with vote of Executive Committee of March 21, 1953)	2,000.00
Stationary and office supplies	40.55
Postage	18.52
Expenses of meeting and statutory filing fees	14.75
Brochure	<u>345.38</u>

Balance in Bank, September 30, 1953

2,585.17
\$2,471.22

RECEIVED	
DEC 30 1953	
L. R. E. & M.	
ROUTED	NOTED
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓

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Then the Membership Secretary, Mr. Parker, read his Report which was accepted by VOTE and placed on file. During the year, 13 Regular and one Sustaining membership were not renewed, a loss of 14 memberships. On the other hand, 35 new members joined the CENTER (as of November 24, 1953) which now comprises 209 members (as against 188 at the time of the last Annual Meeting) in the following classes:

Regular	135
Contributing	44
Sustaining	19
Associate	6
Fellow	1
Life	4
	<hr/> 209

The President read the names of the members who at present serve on the Membership, Executive, and Finance Committees of the CENTER.

Mr. Forbes then presented to the meeting his Report as President of the CENTER for the year 1952-1953:

"At the time of our last Meeting on November 18, 1952, Mr. John D. Cooney was in Cairo directing the affairs of the CENTER. Mr. Cooney's first report was read to you at the last Annual Meeting. Unfortunately Mr. Cooney suffered from illness later in the season which interfered with his work, but we had another report and various letters from him during the time of his illness, telling of his work and research in general. His two reports were published in the Newsletters of January 14, 1953, and April 30, 1953. He returned to America in the spring after he had regained his health.

Professor Arthur Jeffery was appointed to be the new Director for the present year, and Mrs. Joseph Linden Smith gave a dinner in his honor in New York on February 18, 1953. Professor Jeffery, accompanied by his wife, left New York on June 5, 1953, and moved in Cairo into the apartment of Professor Schoonover who has returned to New York and is occupying Professor Jeffery's apartment there. Professor Jeffery plans to stay in Cairo until September 1954. He is using Professor Schoonover's apartment as an office, and his wife is helping him with secretarial work. He has written monthly reports to the President and all but the most recent one have appeared in Newsletters. The July-August one was mailed to you recently and most of you have doubtless received your copy already. I will ask Mr. Dunham presently to read the latest one of the month of September which has not yet been printed.

Meanwhile, other things have happened here. Mr. Ray Garner went to Egypt and came back with an admirable moving picture which was shown in America in April in New York, at Brown University, Providence, and at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith has been active in stirring up interest in the CENTER, and a Membership Committee has been appointed which has done good work.

We have great hope that one of the foundations will endow the CENTER with enough money to enable us to have a house of our own in Cairo and with money enough to give an adequate salary every year to the Director and enable him to have secretarial help, an automobile, etc.

It seems to us that if we had such equipment it would give a feeling of permanence which would impress the Egyptians and scholars all over the world more than our present facilities make possible.

We are pleased with the work which Professor Jeffery is doing and, as you will hear in the report, he has recently found various possibilities of our engaging in important work in the way of developing and publishing books and papers, the presence of which he has discovered.

Better still perhaps, if we are sufficiently endowed, it would be a wonderful thing if we could start in on some new excavation; so we feel that our CENTER, though still young, has a possible very promising future ahead of it."

The Report of the President was accepted by VOTE.

Mr. Dunham, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the following names for election as officers:

President:	Edward W. Forbes
Vice President:	E. E. Calverley
Vice President:	Dows Dunham
Vice President:	John A. Wilson
Treasurer:	Carl T. Keller
Assistant Treasurer:	Bernard V. Bothmer
Membership Secretary:	Richard A. Parker
Executive Secretary:	Bernard V. Bothmer
Trustees (to serve through Novem- ber 30, 1958):	Mrs. Oric Bates Edwin B. Allen John D. Cooney Dows Dunham George C. Miles

It was VOTED to empower the Secretary pro tempore to cast a single ballot on behalf of the meeting for the election of the above named officers and trustees. The ballot having been cast the officers and trustees were declared duly elected.

The Executive Secretary was instructed by VOTE to write a letter of thanks to the retiring Executive Secretary, Mr. Eric Schroeder.

The President next called on Mr. Dunham to read to the meeting, in lieu of the Director's report, Professor Jeffery's most recent letter from Cairo which will be distributed to the members in the next Newsletter.

The meeting having been declared open for discussion, it was suggested from the floor that Professor Jeffery get in touch in Egypt with the former Egyptian Ambassador to Washington, Mr. Kamil Abdul Rahim, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Jeffery to that effect.

It was VOTED to instruct the Secretary to write to Mr. Jeffery with regard to the Arabic Dictionary, now in the custody of the Arabic Academy in Cairo, to explore the opportunities the CENTER may have in sharing the support of this great scholarly undertaking.

Various means of finding more financial support for the aims of the CENTER were discussed, and it was the sense of the meeting that, in addition to a more vigorous membership campaign in this country as well as among the American residents of Egypt, the officers draw up a plan for appealing to foundations interested in the humanities and to American business firms operating in the Near East. It was stressed that cultural cooperation, so well developed by some other countries, was the best form to create a better understanding between nations, and that this cultural cooperation was, to a large extent, the responsibility of American scholars working in fields of study which pertain to a foreign country.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a meeting of the trustees was held. There being no quorum present, the meeting of the trustees was adjourned sine die."

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The following is quoted from Professor Jeffery's reports to the President, covering the months of September, October, and November.

"Contrary to expectation this month of September has not been such an active one from the point of view of the interests of the Center. It has been a pleasant enough month, though the mugginess that results from the high Nile has continued, and there were a goodly number of days when the temperature registered 93°. Sometimes towards sunset we walk along by the Nile, and the gradual retreat of the waters is obvious by the mud banks left behind to show where it had been only recently flooded. The newcomers who have been pouring into this city during these last days of September have complained of how hot it still is, but that is hardly noticeable to us who have been here through the summer. The Fulbright people, the new teachers for the various schools, the representatives of governmental alphabetic organizations, and the holders of Fellowships, Grants, Bourses d'étude, etc., are now practically all in residence, those who are compelled to take 'orientation courses', have been hard at it this last week, and everything is set to start with a bang in October.

Miss Thomas, whose name you gave me, turned up about the middle of the month. She is staying out at Mena House, which is rather expensive, but as she has her dog with her it is almost the only suitable place, and happens to be fairly convenient for the things she is interested in doing.

Some days ago the School here sent around the circular about Family Membership in the Anglo-American Hospital. Since this year my wife and I can get into that scheme under cover of the American University, I subscribed, in the hope that it may be a precedent under which future Directors of the Center may also subscribe. It is a subscription of six Egyptian pounds for man and wife, somewhat higher for a family with children, and allows you to have the facilities of the Hospital at a greatly reduced rate in case of need. It would have come in handy when my wife had to go into the Hospital in August, but we were not on it then and had to pay full rates. However, we are now covered till September of next year in case we need medical attention.

About the middle of the month an exceedingly interesting request came in from Germany. Richard Frye of Harvard while in Berlin had told the people in the German Oriental Society about our being here for the Center this year, and Roemer wrote straightway to ask help in the matter of the Fischer Lexicon. Some of you may remember August Fischer of Leipzig who used to come out here every winter to the meetings of the Arabic Academy. For over forty years he had been busy gathering materials for the first scientific Arabic Lexicon. All our European Arabic Dictionaries, whether Arabic-English, Arabic-French, Arabic-Latin, Arabic-German, etc., are but adaptations, condensations, simplifications of the old native Lexicons but Fischer's Lexicon was to be a scientific work based on the texts themselves. In his library there at Leipzig he had assembled all the editions of the Ancient poets, the inscriptions, the works of the philologists and lexicographers, etc. and painstakingly prepared his slips that would be the basis of the new Lexicon. Each summer in Germany when the German Orientalists met there was a report on Fischer's Lexicon, and each five years at the International Congress of Orientalists support and blessing were invariably given to the same. But presently the material grew so large--it is said that there are well over a million slips--that no publishing house in Europe would consider it. Then when the Arabic Academy was founded here, and August Fischer made one of the six European members, it was the obvious thing when the Academy decided that one of its projects should be a new Arabic Lexicon, for Louis Massignon to suggest that they take over member Fischer's work. So Fischer's library was brought over from Leipzig, along with the shoe boxes filled with his slips, and Fischer himself installed in rooms on the top floor of the Academy building, with two young Egyptian assistants whom he was to teach scientific methods of lexicography. They had hardly got installed and organized things when the war broke out, and Fischer as a German had to depart for Germany, where he died. The material is still there in those upper rooms of the Academy building, and seems to have received little attention since Fischer went. Roemer's enquiry arose from the fact that the Duetsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft has become interested in

working up the lexical notes left by Noldeke and other European Arabists, and wants to know whether it would be possible for a young German Orientalist to come to Cairo and work at the Fischer material in the interests of what they have in view. We learn from another source that they have in mind a pupil of Littmann who is, it seems, an unusually gifted linguist who would enjoy some months here to work at that material in their interests.

I spent the best part of a morning over at the Academy building, which is what my wife calls 'catty-cornered' across from this building in which my Office is, and was received with the greatest cordiality. They have apparently feared attempts would be made to get the Fischer material back to Germany, but they let me see it and what had been done on it with a view to their own Academy Dictionary, and seemed perfectly willing to allow any scholar with proper credentials to work at the material there. They asked me to make an Arabic translation of the letter to be submitted to their Council in October, but did not anticipate that any difficulties would be raised. The translation was duly sent, but that is a story in itself. I translated it into my halting Arabic, but as it had to go before the Arabic Academy prudence suggested that it be first corrected by someone whose native tongue was Arabic. Our old friend Sheikh Ahmad 'Abd al-Khaliq read it over and suggested all sorts of corrections to make it elegant Arabic. Then Nessim Effendi saw it and said: 'Tch! Tch! those corrections are not at all the appropriate ones;' so he would go over it and make it really elegant. The person who read his draft decided that Nessim Effendi had no sense for Arabic style, and that it should be thus and so. And so it went on, till finally it went in with what I think to be an adequate rendering of the German text and the wise men of the Academy will just have to do their own 'Tch! Tching' about the inadequacies of its Arabic style.

If the D.M.G. does send a young man out to the Center we may be able to cooperate with him in his task at the Academy, and certainly could ease the way for him in many matters. I have written to Roemer telling him the result of my visit, and shall probably have to communicate with him again when the Council of the Academy has met and considered the matter. That visit to the Academy building had one little by-product. When the Secretary learned that I was interested in the Qur'an he sent for the young man who is working on what they called a Lexicon of the Qur'an, introduced him to me and made him show me what they were doing. It is not really a Lexicon in our sense, but is just another concordance arranged a little differently from the ordinary Miftah al-Qur'an. They have the section 'Hamza' in typescript, and gave me a set of the sheets with a request to look them over and pick up any mistakes or omissions there might be. This is rather a tedious business, but is worth doing for the link it gives us with them.

Two days ago the piles of Arabic books that Craig had bought for Durham University Library, and which had been lying on the floor of my Office since he went off to Damascus to see what he could pick up there, were carted off. Craig got to Syria easily enough but when he tried to get his exit visa to come back here and pack his purchases and catch his boat for England, he found he could get no exit visa to return to Egypt till exhaustive enquiry had been made to find out whether he had been engaged in unwelcome political activities during his stay in Egypt. There was no objection to his leaving for Europe, but firm opposition to his return to Egypt till full enquiries had been made. Beck worked at this end to facilitate matters, but nothing moved, and so he missed his boat here and had to sail from Beirut. The British Council agreed to send on his books, but to do that they had to send two fellows to make a complete list of the titles for submission to the Censor, and then they collected them for shipment. Doubtless Durham will receive them some time during this winter term. It is rather remarkable to note how Oriental studies are flourishing now in Britain. Several British students have spent their summer vacation out here this year because they have elected the Colloquial Arabic section of the program and had to gain some fluency in the spoken dialect of Egypt.

Ali al-Ansari, whom some of you met during his weeks in the U.S.A., came in to call early in the month, and made arrangements for me to go over and meet the head of the Department of Cultural Relations, Dr. Sulaiman Huzayyin. I had called there to present my credentials soon after we arrived, but there were no 'heads' on hand so early in the summer. He was very cordial and asked the Center to use his office to the full in any help that is needed for students who come out to work. Everywhere in our contacts with these Government officials we have found the greatest cordiality and an eagerness for cooperation that augurs well for any cooperative plans that may work out later.

You have all doubtless been concerned over the earthquake disasters in the Greek Islands. Several local groups have been formed to hasten aid to the victims, and here in this building on the night of the 7th a famous blind pianist gave a Benefit Concert the proceeds of which were to go to the relief of the islanders. Participation in that brought a curious dividend in that it established contact with a kindly fellow who brought along to me a modern Greek translation of the Qur'an, and when he found that I was also interested in the Eastern Churches produced an enormous volume in modern Greek on the History of the Church at Antioch by the late Chrysostom A. Papadopoulos, who was Archbishop of Athens. He passed away leaving MSS works on the History of the Patriarchates of Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria, which some wealthy laymen of Alexandria are having printed, but as they seem to have great difficulty in getting anyone to purchase them, this friend thinks he can get me complimentary copies of them all. From the first two chapters of

this one on Antioch one can judge that it is mainly a volume of compilation, but it has the merit of gathering together in one book, with adequate references, a great deal of scattered material not easily accessible.

Speaking of wealthy laymen of Alexandria is a reminder of another very pleasant event of the month. In June we had heard that Brunner would be passing through here on his way to Tokyo, where he is to teach Philosophy and Ethics for four years in the new International Christian University. At that time it was expected that he would be here for a week or so in August. However he and Frau Brunner did not get away as early as they had expected and he could have only two days in Cairo before going on to India. He attended a dinner in his honor at the Semiramis Hotel. This dinner was given by the leading Swiss businessman in Alexandria, who had asked Dr. Hume to round up representative folk from the various communities, Egyptian and foreign, who would be interested in meeting Brunner and hearing his speech in English. Dr. Hume very kindly included us, so we not only had an excellent dinner on the Semiramis roof and met the Brunners, but also made contact with some folk whom we might not otherwise have met in Cairo. One of the guests, indeed the one who sat next to me at the dinner--which was at a long table with all the ladies on one side of the table and all the men on the other--(is this a Swiss custom?), was Professor Sami Gabra, who was full of his trip to Chicago. Many of you doubtless met him during his visit. He has been retired from his post, and is now living in Heliopolis. He promised to put me in touch with the work that is being done on the Aramaic papyri discovered some time ago. Their publication is long overdue, so it may be possible to do a little needling to speed up the process.

Work on the new Encyclopaedia of Islam has finally started again. It had bogged down after Kramer's death for lack of funds, but now there has apparently been help from UNESCO, and Stern, who is in charge of the secretarial work, has written requesting a whole raft of articles. He wants those in A early in 1954; so that is going to be another job. In one way it is good to be doing it here where there are resources in Arabic that are not available in New York, but on the other hand it is a nuisance trying to work away from one's own library and one's own notes. We have found out many things these last two months which will be very useful if the Center comes to have its own building and develops its own Library.

That reminds me of Cresswell and the proposed filming of his Bibliography. He has returned from England though we have not yet seen him. One friend who has seen him says that he is talking of having to sell his library in order to have something on which to live. We have heard that Dr. Badeau had approached a Fund in New York with a proposal that Cresswell's library be bought and deposited here in this building, with Cresswell being given complete liberty to use it at his convenience while he still lives, but the library at his death passing to the possession of the School of Oriental Studies here. If this should go through, any students of the Center would also have free use of all that material.

A letter has come from Armbruster, now resident in Cambridge, asking help towards the publication of his Nubian Dictionary. The two volumes of his Initia Amharica have proved very useful to students but in his later years he has interested himself in Nubian. Since all these Nubian dialects are spoken in Egyptian territory one would have thought that the Egyptian Government would have been interested in seeing a dictionary of this kind printed, but he has written them in vain. The Cambridge University Press is willing to do the printing, and will invest a thousand pounds in it, but they need two thousand five hundred. Armbruster's friends have contributed the five hundred, but they are still short a thousand. If the Center had money to invest in a project of publication that would be an admirable investment, but meanwhile it may be possible by personal contact here to find some way of getting the Government interested in it, and having it printed here. It would certainly be possible for the Center to undertake free of cost to see through the technical matters of proof-correcting, etc., if the work were done by a local printer. We are far too much inclined to dispise the Nubian dialects, though actually they have a great deal of interest.

The Indian student from Bengal who has been working here all the summer brought in another Indian student to see me this last week. Another Muslim from Bengal who had come over here to study at the Azhar, but was bitterly disappointed with the kind of teaching they give there and so transferred to the Egyptian University. He is working on the 'Aqida of al-Maturidi, but is up against all sorts of textual problems on which he can get no help. So we have agreed that he shall come in with his problems at an hour that does not interfere with anything else, and we shall do what we can to help him. Though the Center is for Egypt, my judgment was that we should not turn away Indian Muslims who are working here when there is the possibility of rendering them some small service."

"The academic year is now well on its way. Even the University of Cairo, which seems to commence later than anything else, has finally got going, and is struggling to digest enrolment. There is a lot of talk about the financial crisis but from the numbers of students who come along wanting to enroll in the various educational institutions, and with money in their pockets to pay the fees, it is evident that there is no serious crisis yet. We have heard, however, that there are practically no students going to America on Government scholarships this year, which perhaps explains why the United States Embassy here has this year been flooded with thousands of applications for the handful of scholarships they have to administer. The Embassy advertised these and as the deadline for applications drew near there were days when you could not get near the office of the Cultural Attaché because of the mobs of students all wanting a personal interview to support their applications.

Quite a group of us attended a function at the University Club in what they call the 'University City' at the University of Cairo, when as part of their Opening Ceremonies, the Rector

of the University, Dr. Ahmad Zaki, had a reception for his Fulbright people. As you might guess it was an all male affair, but it was an opportunity to meet not only the new Fulbright people but some of the officials of the University one would not normally meet. Dr. Ahmad Zaki was himself a research Chemist before he was elected to this administrative post, but it is interesting to find that he is not a scientist who can see no good in the humanities. Under his administration, so far as one can judge, humanistic studies are receiving quite as much attention as are scientific studies.

At that Reception it was possible to get in a corner for a while with Dr. Murad Kamil. Some of you may remember that he was a pupil in Germany of both Littmann and Miltwoch. When the Aramaic papyri were discovered during the excavations at Hermopolis they were entrusted to Murad Kamil for study and publication. One of the tasks laid on me before we left New York was to find out where this matter stood. These very important documents ought to be out before Driver publishes the Borchardt material he now has at Oxford, and Driver's publication is already announced by the Press. Murad Kamil tells me that his work has long since been finished and the manuscript ready for the printer, but the publication problem is complicated. The excavation at Hermopolis, it appears, was under the auspices of the University of Cairo, and the plan is to publish the Report of the excavation in three parts, a section on the archaeology of the site by Sami Gabra, a section on the Aramaic papyri by Murad Kamil, and a section on the Demotic legal papyrus by Girgis Matta. The University apparently is unwilling to have any one part appear without the others, and has not the funds at the moment to undertake the complete publication.

It is a little difficult to see any compelling reason for the whole three parts to appear at once if something is to be gained by one part appearing earlier than the others, so I have written at length to the Rector on this, explaining the importance of these Aramaic documents, and enquiring whether some way may not be found to expedite their publication, Dr. Murad Kamil himself suggested the possibility of separating this item entirely from the full publication of the Hermopolis excavation, and with the co-operation of the Center in preparing a fuller theological commentary on the texts, issuing the papyri as a larger separate publication. You ask why a 'theological commentary'? The answer is that these new papyri contain fresh evidence on the worship of the 'Queen of heaven' of which Jeremiah accused the Jews domiciled in Egypt, as well as some other little matters of religious interest which may open up again the controversy which raged when the Elephantine papyri were published. It might well be that the Center would be willing to co-operate in such a project, but as our conversation continued it became clear that the price of co-operation would be that the Center raise the funds for publication, which is a different matter. In any case there is a strong argument for the University of Cairo publishing this material without co-operation, as a contribution by Egyptian scholarship to our fund of knowledge on this period, so it seems better to begin by trying to urge this on the University authorities.

It may be news to you that there are other Aramaic papyri as yet unstudied and unreported, in the collection of Dr. Aziz Suryal 'Atiyya. We lunched with him out at Maadi last week and after lunch spent three hours examining his extraordinary collection of manuscripts and papyri. Many of the manuscripts are interesting, and some are valuable, for example Shahnameh, beautifully written and with illustrations as fine as I have ever seen. It is the papyri collection, however, that will interest you most. Besides the few Aramaic pieces they are Greek, Coptic and Arabic. The Greek pieces I examined were relatively late and perhaps not of very great importance, but he has many Arabic papyri in an excellent state of preservation from the very earliest Islamic centuries, which seemed quite worthy of a place beside those that Grohmann has been editing for the State Library here. A good many pieces are still unopened scrolls with the clay seals intact. Though he has not made any special effort to collect ostraca he has acquired a goodly number of Coptic ostraca which seemed at a brief examination to be more important than his Coptic papyri. He himself is far too busy with the historical work to whose publication he is committed to have time to work at this collection, but I gather that the collection would be made available to qualified scholars who might be interested in working at it.

Speaking of Dr. 'Atiyya reminds me that a number of people have expressed interest in a trip to the monasteries at Wadi Natrun and to St. Catherine's monastery at Mt. Sinai, and Dr. 'Atiyya has signified his willingness to help us organize these when the weather is cooler. We have heard that the great expedition with photographers from the Library of Congress, which photographed the MSS collections at Sinai, paid no attention to the papyri there, so it might be worth while looking into this. Also at Wadi Natrun we hear there has been a new find of Syriac MSS. Some renovations, it seems, necessitated taking up the flooring boards in one of the rooms, and there under the boards was a hoard of MSS wrapped up, some Greek, some Arabic, but some Syriac. The present Abbot is interested in having these catalogued and studied, so that if any of them prove to be of special value it may be possible to have photographs made. All this so far is hearsay, but a visit there might prove worth while.

The Roemer enquiry about which we wrote in the September letter is progressing nicely. There was a very friendly letter from the Council of the Arabic Academy which we could translate and send on to the German Oriental Society. The Academy is very willing to co-operate in every way and will make the Fischer material available to any accredited student sent out from Germany. Roemer has not yet sent any further word, probably having to wait for a meeting of his Committee, but the probabilities are that someone will be out during the winter working with us and with the Academy on that material. Roemer mentioned no names but Vocke told me that it is a very brilliant student of Littmann they have in mind sending out for some months.

Wehr of Erlangen has been here all this last month and will still be here for some weeks before he goes off to Syria. You may remember that his special interest is the modern literary language of the Arabic speaking world. His Dictionary of this modern language, which we used with profit at Columbia, is out of print, and before starting on a second edition he is out checking on the great mass of additional material he has to incorporate. That is the problem with these modern Oriental languages. I remember some years ago we had a small group here studying Modern Osmanli Turkish, and though we purchased specially for them the most recent Turkish-English Lexicon there was continual complaint that the Turkish magazines they received on subscription contained many words which were not in the Dictionary. Modern developments in the cultural life of the Orient need so many new words and see so many new uses given to old words that a Dictionary is practically out of date the day it is printed. Early in November Wehr is to lecture here on some of the phenomena that have intrigued him as he has worked on his investigation of the modern Arabic vocabulary.

As Mr. Cooney had reported there is great demand for lectures now that the academic year is properly started. Paul Castlebury who is out here on a Fulbright Fellowship this year has a very large group of eager students lined up for a course on the Purposes and Methods of Research, and he has me roped in to help with the sections which deal with research in the Humanities. His primary idea is good, namely, that besides the formal discussions he will have with the Class he will bring in 'Guest Lecturers' from various fields in the Natural and Social Sciences and the Humanities to talk about the practical problems of research in their particular fields. Thus the students will be brought into contact not only with the theory of the matter but with research as it is actually being carried out in certain fields. His problem, of course, is to find 'Guest Lecturers' from various fields who can bring their exposition of their research projects within the range of these students. I remember Sarolea of Edinburgh many years ago remarking that in his student days in France they used to say that the more eminent a research scholar was the less intelligible he was, and some of the scholars doing research around here just now are exceedingly eminent.

One of the outstanding events of the month was the visit of the Van Vlecks. Dr. Van Vleck spent a great deal of his time in personal interviews with different people who were or who might be interested in these social projects whose study he is promoting, but Mrs. Van Vleck was interested in Cairo and my wife had

her first serious assignment of piloting a visitor around to see the sights. We secured permits for the Saqqara trip and for Mosque visitation, and found again that there is great friendliness in the Departments concerned with these permits. I went on one of the Mosque trips and saw for the first time the Gaer Anderson House, hard by the Ibn Tulun Mosque, which is now the property of the Egyptian Government by gift, and is open at certain hours daily for tourists. My wife had been there several times before, but I had never been inside. It is quite an extraordinary collection, and they have wisely kept on Gaer Anderson's old servants who take a personal pride in everything in the place, and are delighted beyond measure to meet anyone who knew the Major in the old days. They had a wonderful time slipping me on the quiet through the panel into the secret chamber and then pretending to the ladies that I had disappeared into thin air. They asked my wife to call me and she could hear my voice reply but could not see me and could not imagine where I could be concealed in that room. From that secret chamber you can look down on the fountain playing in the marble Court below so I have my own ideas as to what it was used for when a Pasha formerly lived there.

Dr. Hughes and Dr. Nims called one morning before they took their train up Luxor. My wife entertained them for a while for we had not known that they were in town and that morning Boutrus 'Abd al-Malik and I had gone out to Helmia to the Library of the Dominican Fathers to see Anawati and meet the young man Jounier who is there working on Islamic problems and had expressed a desire to meet me. We shall have to make a good deal of use of that Dominican Library as it is the only place in this city which has complete sets of certain publications we need to consult from time to time. It is a pleasant enough trip but is time consuming. Some of you may have met Fr. Anawati when he was in America. He will be over there again this winter for Montreal has invited him to lecture at the School of Mediaeval Studies, and he will be in New York and Boston both going and returning.

Another Indian student has been along this month. He is from Peshawar, a bearded, turbaned lad named Badshah Zadeh Swati, whose father sent him over here to study at the Azhar. He is very unhappy, however, and wants to be prepared so that he can come to America some day and take a degree in an American University. Bick has agreed that if I will sponsor him he will accept him in the School of Oriental studies as a prospective candidate for the M.A. and then if he passes the qualifying examination as a regular candidate. He has an excellent subject for a Dissertation, namely one of the new sects which has recently arisen among the Muslims in Pakistan. He knows the leader personally, and knows some of the orthodox Mullas who are bitterly attacking the new sect, so he does not anticipate any difficulty in having sent to him both the tracts published by the sect in which they set forth their views, and the broadcasts against them by their opponents, to form the basis of his study. Most of this material will be in Urdu but it was surprising to learn that there is a good deal published in Pakistan in English.

The Center was represented officially at the Opening Exercises of the American University here, when Mr. Deck as Dean of the School of Oriental Studies very generously made mention of our presence here and of the services the Center was anxious to offer. One of those services, that of collating texts, began with a vengeance this month. The request from Philadelphia for a collation of an inscription in the Museum was great fun, for the three smallish statues concerned were in a glass case in an out of the way corner and the inscriptions could not be seen without removing the statues from their shelves. This necessitated carpenters to open the cases, attendants to roll up a revolving table on which to put each statue as in turn it came out, guards to stand at attention beside the table to see that there was no thievery, and an open-mouthed audience which collected in no time to see what it was all about. The Museum officials co-operated with the greatest kindness and no trouble seemed too much if it rendered some useful service. The other requests for the collation of Arabic texts were an awful sweat for nobody could find anything and it was only after interminable searching that the items were located and the collations could be made.

We lunched one Saturday with Mrs. Elgood out at her home on the road to the Pyramids, and heard a great deal of the inside news. She gave us a copy of her husband's last work, that on the Later Pharaohs, which Blackwell published after his death. She said he would have wanted us to have a copy and so she had saved us one. It must be very lonely for her out there all alone, but she comes into town a good deal, and seems as actively interested in things as she was in the thirties. We were also to have lunched one day with George Rentz, but when the news came that Ibn Sa'ud was seriously ill he was called suddenly to Dhaharan and we shall have to wait now till he comes back. We have heard rumours of a curious strike at the plants of the Oil Companies there. The workmen are refusing to come to work at the plants, not because they have anything against the Company, but because they object to the regulations imposed by their own Government. Probably the idea is that if they do not work the Government will lose its oil revenues and be compelled to take notice of their grievances. To me, at least, that seemed something new in the way of strikes.

We have seen Creswell who has returned from his vacation much better, and full of enthusiasm to finish off volume three of the magnum opus on Islamic Architecture. Next week we are to go to tea with him at his flat, and will take up the question you committed to me concerning the filming of his Bibliography. On the surface there seems to be no opposition to the idea, but the report to you about the project will have to come in November after we have seen the state of the Bibliography and have talked with him at some length about it."

"Maybe those atom bombs did do something to the world's weather. At any rate we have never known such weather in Egypt.

In Egypt where the textbooks tell us, it never rains, we have had quite a number of rainy days this month of November, and early in the month it rained for three days in succession. The month ended in bitter cold, not cold by your thermometer measure, but bitterly cold for this land and we have had to scurry around and lay in a stock of firewood. There are two nice fireplaces in the apartment, which in the old days were of the nature of architectural ornament, but which this winter are certainly going to be put to their proper use. A young fellow arrived here with his bride early in the month to study Arabic for some months before proceeding to his assignment in Arabia. Wiseacres in their home state had told them that Egypt was nearly in the tropics so they need take only spring and summer clothing. They have well high drained their meager resources purchasing clothing in which they can keep reasonably warm.

November, of course, is Thanksgiving season here for the American community as it is for you at home. There was the usual Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel out at the Girls' College, and a Community Picnic in their playing fields afterwards. The U.S. Minister came to the service and read the President's Proclamation, and Beck from the School of Oriental Studies preached the sermon of Thanksgiving. There was a remarkably good and representative crowd out there, and we were invited to join. They had the traditional ball game after the picnic, but there were things waiting to be done back in the Office so we did not stay to that.

Very early in the month we went to have tea with Creswell, so we can now report definitely on the project of filming his Bibliography. He still lives on the sixth floor of an ancient apartment house in a queer section of the city and you still have to climb up those six flights of none too easy stairs to reach his door, but from his windows you can still see, as he points them out, the chief Islamic monuments of the city. In our part of the city, building has gone on at such a rate in recent years that from our roof here we can see only about a sixth of what we used to be able to see, but down where Cresswell is, there has been practically no new building to cut off his view. He himself is getting older now and we wondered how long he would continue to negotiate those stairs. After tea we saw the half of the Bibliography which is here (the other half is in London), and talked about the plan to have the whole of it filmed. He is all in favor of it, for he says that in any case it would be insurance. He has been working at the Bibliography off and on since 1911, and it is as complete as could be expected. There are doubtless articles on some aspects of Islamic Art and Architecture in Hungarian and Slavonic journals, and certainly in some of the vernaculars of Hindustan, but in so far as the material is in periodicals, in the more usually known languages, he has extracted all the references available. You can take it as certain that he would co-operate fully in any plan that is proposed to have his material put into a more accessible form. He expressed some astonishment that his place had escaped when so much was destroyed by

the rioters in January, 1952. No one knows when something might happen to it so the sooner steps are taken the better.

The project of the Fischer Lexicon in which we were much interested has gone along unbelievably well. As reported in the last letter the Arabic Academy here was most cordial when I went to them with Roemer's letter from the German Oriental Society to ask if the late August Fischer's lexical material, which is in the possession of the Academy, would be made available for study by a young German Orientalist they were thinking of sending out here for six months. They let me see the Fischer material which is all up in a special little room, and told me that the letter hamza was missing, as Fischer had taken that home with him to Germany to work on, and after his death they had heard nothing of what had happened to it. When transmitting their official reply to Roemer I asked if they could do anything to locate this hamza material which presumably would have been with Frau Fischer when she passed away. They did succeed in locating it, but unfortunately it was in the Russian Zone, and to get a box full of papers out, especially papers unintelligible to the Russian officials, was quite a business, but they succeeded, and a couple of weeks ago Dr. Jörg Kraemer arrived here with hamza safely in his luggage. He spent some days here in the School at practicing his Arabic for speaking purposes and then we rang up the Academy for an appointment. Dr. Boutrus 'Abd al-Malik went over with him, and no less a dignitary than Dr. Mansur Fahmy himself was there to receive him and place all the facilities of the Academy at his disposal. Naturally that return of hamza is going to oil many wheels for him there.

We seem destined to extend our influence beyond the bounds of Egypt. Now it is the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan that is asking. Blackburn, who is in charge of Bishop's School at 'Amman, has written if it would be possible to give them a course of lectures on Islam early in January. They have a goodly number of people there who are interested but are now quite cut off from academic contacts. Before the days of the new Israel the Newman School in Jerusalem used to make possible lecture courses for them, but those days are no more. Eric Bishop in Glasgow told them we were here in Cairo for the year interested in furthering Islamic studies, and so he wrote to ask if we would consider Jordan within our range. When the Bishop of Jerusalem heard about this he spoke with Dr. Muilenburg of the American School of Oriental Studies in Jerusalem about having lectures in Jerusalem also. If we can get a re-entry permit from the Egyptian Government we shall take this trip early in January, for besides any help it may be to the groups in 'Amman and Jerusalem it will enable us to renew contacts with Arab Palestine and, above all, to have a look at the masses of new material from the Dead Sea finds. It is reported that there are in that material Nabataean papyri, which, if true, is news of the first importance.

We ourselves have no further light to shed on the fate of the Coptic Gnostic papyri from Nag Hamadi. We were solemnly assured that all twelve documents were still safely under seal here till the court case was settled. We were also assured

that that case would be settled in late September or early October and the documents then made available for study. However, here it is with November ended and no word of the settlement of the case. Meanwhile my attention was drawn to a news item published the other day in the Egyptian Gazette to the effect that a certain Dr. Jung of Zurich had purchased four of these papyri for an undisclosed sum, among them the famous 'Gospel' of Valentinian, and that arrangements were being made for their immediate publication. When clarification of the situation is available, we shall pass on the word to those of you who are interested. We have heard indirectly that Doresse was through here in October, but we did not see him. At the moment he is apparently in Abyssinia.

Another member of the Center, Miss Josephine Harris of Wilson College, Pennsylvania, has turned up this month. It was possible to locate her comfortably in Gresham House and to put her in contact with Mustafa Amer at the Department of Antiquities and the folk at the Coptic Museum. We need not have worried doing any more than getting her the contact with Mustafa Amer, for he has apparently taken her under his special care, and is writing letters to his Inspectors in the various places she wishes to visit, so that they will expect her and make everything she wants available to her. Her chief desire is to visit the monastic churches at Sohag. He has arranged for her to be able to do that on her way down from Luxor to Assiut. Dr. Hughes replied most cordially to our letter asking if Chicago House would accept her there for the days she is to be in Luxor, and we have seen that the American Mission Hospital will put her up in Assiut. Dr. Muilenburg in Jerusalem has promised to make the necessary arrangements for her there, and I do not imagine she will have too much difficulty in seeing the various monuments in Syria and Palestine she has on her list.

Robert Dyson, who is on a fellowship from Harvard and was on his way to the excavations at Nippur, called in on his way through and we were able to have him in on one of the dinner parties. He went up country from here and proposes to be in Jericho for at least part of Miss Kenyon's dig at Jericho before the summer. Another youthful Orientalist who has been in is Richard Mitchell of Princeton who is here improving his Arabic and also gathering material for a thesis on the modern movement known as the Muslim Brothers (al-Ikhwān al-Muslimīn). Only a day or two ago the papers had quite a notice about a serious rift in the ranks of the Brothers. A dissident group got in and forced the Supreme Potentate of the Brotherhood to sign a letter of resignation. The reports one gets of what is going on are still too confused to make possible any judgment as to whether this means any considerable change in the attitude of the Brotherhood or not. Maybe we can report further on this later.

There was a big tea here in this building for the Fulbright people on November 10th, and as we are domiciled here we were allowed to share. The point of the tea was to have them meet Miss Lam from Washington, but she had fallen sick

in Beirut and did not arrive here till two days later. Those of you who know some Arabic will be interested to learn that the Fulbright people are known in the vernacular as Falābrī, which one of the Sheikhs mentioned was unfortunately on the measure of khanāzir. They are quite a varied lot this year. One of them, Castlebury, dragged me in to contribute to the course he is giving on Methods of Research and for which he wants the collaboration of people from different fields who will discuss with the students the particular problems and methods in their fields. It was an astonishingly large class with an astonishingly large proportion of lady students, and they seemed very responsive and very eager.

That is a reminder that the Winter Series of public lectures here at the School began this month, and they called in your Director to give the opening lecture. It was a most distinguished audience, and though they may not have gone away much wiser than they were when they arrived, they gave the lecturer a good hearing. It is not a little remarkable that such an audience of Egyptians, Americans, French, British, Greeks, Germans, Armenians and a sprinkling of others, can be gathered here to listen to the type of lecture put on by the School. I was immediately set upon by representatives of five other organizations who would like to have me come and lecture to them also. It is probably a good idea to accept as many of these invitations as possible for it makes contacts that may be important to the Center later, quite apart from the slight service it renders these various groups now.

We had one nuisance here this month. He was a Maronite from Lebanon who has over the years compiled an English-Arabic Phrase Book. This doubtless represents considerable labor on his part. He has a great assemblage of English words and phrases with various ways these may be expressed in Arabic, and some explanation of the different shades of meaning that will be given if translated this way or that. Who told him about us is a mystery, but the great idea was that the Center should finance the printing and publication of this magnum opus. A cursory examination of his material suggested that its greatest use would be to students whose mother tongue was Arabic but who were studying English and needed to know precisely what various English expressions meant. It would doubtless be of some use also to English-speaking students of Arabic. If some friend of the Center feels moved to provide the financial support for printing such a work your Director agrees to see it through the press here, but he does not recommend it as a Center project.

One very interesting experience of the month was due to the fact that Worth Howard met at dinner that East African Muslim youth whose colored pictures of the Mecca Pilgrimage were published in the National Geographic Magazine. The youth is in Cairo for some weeks and expressed his willingness to show his pictures on the screen here in Ewart Hall; so a hasty invitation was sent out for a Wednesday evening gathering, where we had an unhurried showing of all his colored pictures, both those published and a great many more that have not yet been published. Apparently he had his troubles with fanatical folk in the Holy City, but he got his pictures out, and it was something unusual

to see what you might call 'close ups' of what the orthodox regard as the most sacred ceremonial of Islam.

Moulid an Nabī, the festival of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, fell this month. It is a general holiday. Our Hasan, however, did not want the day off, for he wanted the following Sunday, which was some special Nubian festival, which seemed to him much more important. For the Moulid there were the usual celebrations in the mosques with the recitation of the famous Bordah and other such eulogies of the Prophet, but as we went around it seemed to us that this festival at least has become a very tame affair from what it used to be even twenty years ago, let alone the days when E. W. Lane lived here and wrote his Manners and Customs. Perhaps it is a sign of the times, as significant as the colored pictures of the Hajj.

Last Saturday evening we were invited to the Yemenite Students' Union. It was somewhat surprising to see how many of these students from South Arabia there are here. They speak a peculiar dialect and are rather laughed at by the Egyptian students, but they were an extremely well behaved group. Their Club rooms are on the sixth floor of one of these very new buildings across the Nile, a building which rejoices in the name 'Castle Pearl of the Nile'. The guest of honor of the evening was Professor Adolf Grohmann, an old friend, who for many years was at the University of Prague. He brought along his pictures of the most recent excavations in the Yemen to explain to these students something of the antiquities of their own country. It was the quietest, most enraptured audience I have ever seen. You really could have heard that well-known pin drop at any moment during the forty minutes he was speaking. Dr. Hamdani, who was a pupil of Margoliouth at Oxford, and whom we had met many years ago, was the Chairman, and he sat the two of us next to Khalil Yehyia Nami, the very man we had been trying in vain to make contact with since we arrived in June. Some of you may remember the work he did on the inscriptions from South Arabia and which was published by the French Institute. Please keep Nami's name in mind for it may be possible for him to visit the U.S.A. in the near future and we would want many of you to meet him.

Miss Newnan has written from England announcing her coming and asking for reservations to be made for her, so those of you who know her will be glad of the news that she is on her way. Please let us know well ahead of any others who plan to come, for as the tourist season advances it is more and more difficult to find accommodations. Also please reassure our friends that we are in no danger spot here. One dear lady wrote saying she was so glad to learn we were alive and safe after all those terrible riots in Egypt. There have been no terrible riots. At least if there have, we have not yet heard about them and are getting along very comfortably--save for the chill weather."

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As our members will have seen from Professor Jeffery's reports, the Center is off to a good start in Cairo. Meanwhile efforts will be made to find more members and to obtain larger funds for continued operations in Egypt. During the summer, several thousand copies of the pamphlet on the Center were mailed to addresses obtained from the Archaeological Institute of America, and although the return in individual memberships was small, the existence of the Center has become known to a large number of people and institutions in this country. Members are urged to write to the Membership Secretary, Professor Parker, at Brown University, Providence 12, R. I., for more copies of the pamphlet which will help in gaining new members. We are still a long way from being the kind of institution which is maintained by private support in the American Academy in Rome and in the Schools at Athens, Jerusalem and Baghdad. But our hopes as well as our aims are high; the need for cultural cooperation between nations is great, especially in the Near East, and without a permanent establishment in Cairo we cannot offer much encouragement to younger people who are interested in the culture of Egypt and the Islamic civilization. Comments as well as advice from members are most welcome to the central office, and every way of approach to the problem of obtaining larger funds will be followed by the officers of the Center. We have gained a foothold; the next step will be to establish a permanent headquarters (be it ever so small) in Cairo and to find support for a continued directorship over a number of years.

Bernard V. Bothmer
Executive Secretary